

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the “Melwood Affordable Housing Redevelopment Project” in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Melwood Horticultural Training Center, Inc., located at 750 23rd Street, Arlington VA.

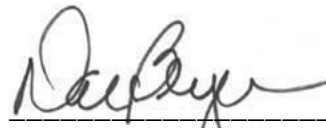
A Congressional investment of \$1,710,000 will help transform an aging, underutilized former school into over 100 units of affordable housing in the Crystal City area of Arlington. Intentionally inclusive, this project will model best practices of inclusion for people with disabilities, setting aside 30 units for individuals with disabilities. The building will provide housing to families with a wide range of household sizes (with 1-bedroom to 3-bedroom units) and a wide range of incomes, from extremely low income to moderate income. In addition to affordable housing, the building will provide space for Melwood’s program, including job training and supportive services for disabled individuals.

The need for quality affordable housing options for people with I/DD is amplified by economic factors, such as underemployment and the local housing market, which make it more difficult for people with I/DD to gain independence. In 2020, only 17.9% of U.S. adults with I/DD were employed and many rely on public support services. The annual income for a single person with I/DD receiving Supplemental Security Income through the Social Security Administration and living alone or paying their share of food and housing costs is \$9,528. In Arlington, 22.1% of residents with disabilities lived under the poverty level in 2019.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2) and U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.